(b) The main reasons for low plant load factor of Thermal Power Stations in the State sector are the old age of the generating units, obsolescence of technology, non-availability of adequate quantity of fuel, mismatch in the designed fuel quality and supplied fuel, long outage of the units for planned and unscheduled maintenance, etc.

Allocation of gas from Panna-Mukta-Tapti fields

2901. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has approached the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for getting nearly half the quantity of gas from Panna-Mukta-Tapti fields for producing more power to meet countrywide power shortage;

(b) if so, the response of the latter thereto; and

(c) what are the barriers in accepting the Ministry's legitimate demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the prevailing shortage of gas at NTPC power plants, Ministry of Power has requested Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to advise Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) to allocate 7 Million Standard Cubic Meter per day (MMSCMD) of gas from Panna-Mukta-Tapti (PMT) field to NTPC Ltd.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has intimated that the demand of natural gas in the country is more than the availability. However, priority is being given to supply of natural gas to power plants, including from PMT fields. The power plants located along Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur (HBJ)/ex-Hazira are being supplied a total quantity of 2.25 MMSCMD natural gas from PMT fields at Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) price. Further, 1.5 MMSCMD is being supplied to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL). 0.90 MMSCMD would be supplied to Torrent Power Limited. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has informed that the total supply to power sector from PMT fields would be 4.65 MMSCMD.

Power shortage

2902. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic industrial production would be hampered by upto thirty five per cent in the coming months due to power shortage;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for generation of more power in the country, to fulfil the industry's demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) There is a continuing shortage of power in the country. The quantum of shortage varies from State to State, on day to day and hour to hour depending on demand and supply of power. The energy and peak shortage in the country during the year 2007-08 was 9.8% and 16.6% respectively.

There is no representation from the domestic industries about the impact of power shortage or its impact degree in terms on the domestic production in the coming months. Electricity being a concurrent subject under the Constitution, the supply and distribution of electricity

to different areas and different categories of consumers in a State is within the purview of the concerned State Government/State Power Utilities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government(s) by establishing power generation plants in the Central Sector through Central Public Sector Undertakings.

The steps taken/being taken to improve the power supply position in the country include augmentation of generating capacity by over 78,500 MW during the Eleventh Plan, development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4,000 MW capacity each, improving performance of existing power stations, renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generating units, harnessing surplus captive power into the grid, strengthening inter-State and inter-regional transmission capacity for optimum utilization of available power, promoting demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures and import of power from Bhutan.

Payment of Special Duty Allowance and benefit by NHPC

2903. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the special duty allowance and benefit to officers in National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) was given from 1st August, 1997 whereas the Teesta Hydro Electric Project, Ranjit Power Station and other North Eastern Projects workers have been given only from 1st March, 2002; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Executives and Supervisors of NHPC posted at Loktak Project in Northeast Region having All India Transfer Liability were entitled and paid Special (Duty) Allowance *w.e.f.* 1.11.1983. Though the Special (Duty) Allowance was admissible only to employees having All India transfer Liability, Workmen in Loktak Project became entitled to the Special (Duty) Allowance as a part of a conciliation settlement *w.e.f.* 1.11.1983.

The SDA was further extended to Executives and Supervisors posted at Teesta-V and Rangit Projects located in Sikkim, to which the same dispensation as the Northeast Region became applicable *w.e.f.* 1.08.1997. Workmen at these Projects, not coming under the purview of the All India Transfer Liability, were not entitled to SDA.

NHPC introduced a Transfer Policy in respect of Workmen category *w.e.f.* July, 2000 bringing Workmen category also under the purview of All India Transfer Liability. Thereafter, NHPC management, on examination of admissibility of the Special (Duty) Allowance to Workmen category, introduced the same *w.e.f.* 1.03.2002.

T & D losses of SEBs

2904. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state how much of Transmission and Distribution (T & D) losses of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are for technical reasons and how much due to theft of power, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Prior to year 2001-02, utilities used to monitor Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses. Under that system, there was a tendency by utilities to book subsidized/